

REMARKS

This application contains claims 1-27. Claim 27 is hereby amended. No new matter has been introduced. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 27 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for an error in antecedence. Applicant has amended this claim, as suggested by the Examiner, in order to correct the error. Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection has now been overcome.

The Examiner has further rejected claims 1, 8-10, 17-19, 26 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over Stubler, et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0188602), and claims 2-7, 11-16 and 20-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Stubler taken on its own or in combination with Chevion (U.S. Patent 5,455,875). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections. A Declaration under 37 CFR 1.131 is submitted herewith, proving that the present invention was reduced to practice prior to the filing date of Stubler (May 7, 2001). Consequently, Applicant respectfully submits that Stubler may not be considered prior art against the present patent application.

Applicant has studied the additional references that were made of record by the Examiner. Applicant believes that

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all the claims in the present patent application are patentable over these additional references, whether the references are taken individually or in combination.

Applicant believes the amendments and remarks presented hereinabove to be fully responsive to all of the grounds of rejection raised by the Examiner. In view of these amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims in the present application are in order for allowance. Notice to this effect is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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